

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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P 171248Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1683

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 3553

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, CZ
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: INTERIM EXTENSION OF BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT
AGREEMENT (ATA)

REFS: (A) PRAGUE 3486, (B) STATE 298015

1. WITH PRAGUE BUREAUCRACY GRADUALLY GRINDING TO HALT FOR YEAR-END HOLIDAY PERIOD, WE NEED TO MOVE PROMPTLY IF WE ARE TO EXTEND CURRENT ATA BEYOND DECEMBER 31 EXPIRATION DATE IN ACCORD WITH REF. B. EMBASSY FAVORS PROPOSING TO GOC BEFORE CHRISTMAS A SIX-MONTH INTERIM EXTENSION TO ALLOW TIME FOR CSA AND PANAM TO WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS AND TO RESOLVE OTHER DETAILS OF LONGER-TERM EXTENSION.

2. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF RECENT CSA-PANAM TALKS IN LONDON. COLLINS HAY, LOCAL PANAM REP, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THEM, WAS RELATIVELY ENCOURAGED BY LONDON DISCUSSIONS. HE SAYS CSA NEGOTIATORS GENERALLY WERE BUSINESS-LIKE AND MADE TWO INTERESTING PROPOSALS: A) ONE-YEAR EXTENSION WITH MINIMUM SALES QUOTA OF \$940,000; OR B) TWO-YEAR EXTENSION WITH TOTAL SALES QUOTA OF \$2 MILLION PLUS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1976 QUOTA AND ACTUAL PANAM SALES, WHICH HE ESTIMATES AT \$70,000, ALL OF WHICH WORKS OUT TO ROUGHLY
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\$1,035,000 PER YEAR. HAY OPTIMISTIC THAT PANAM AND CSA WILL RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES BUT FEELS MORE TIME AND PERHAPS ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE NECESSARY TO DO THIS. HE WAS UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY FOR PANAM MANAGEMENT BEFORE HE LEFT FOR U.S. CHRISTMAS VISIT ON DEC. 11.

3. INCIDENTALLY, HAY SAYS CSA STILL KEENLY
INTERESTED IN PANAM'S LEASED SPACE AGREEMENT PRO-
POSAL. PANAM EVIDENTLY PLANS TO MAKE FORMAL
WRITTEN PROPOSAL SOON.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) PLEASE ADVISE BEFORE
DEC. 22 AT LATEST WHETHER AND HOW EMBASSY SHOULD
PROPOSE INTERIM EXTENSION OF ATA TO MFA. (B) PLEASE
PROVIDE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON RESULTS OF LONDON
AIRLINE TALKS AS ASSESSED BY DEPARTMENT AND PANAM
MANAGEMENT.
BYRNE

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